

Govt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

B.
No 2250 W 7/8/8/91

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th August 1891, No. 744.

B. No. 2250 W 7/8-8-91

AUGUST.

Season, Chingleput.

Board's Proceedings submitting, with remarks,
letter from the Collector of Chingleput reporting
on the state of the district for the fortnight
ending 25th July 1891, recorded with remarks.

5. Leaving Janakipuram on the morning of Sunday, 19th, I marched to Répalle, about 10 miles north. This part had not been visited by me for some time as it was reported to me to be fairly off. It was a pleasant change to see here and there no inconsiderable extents of green; but the appearance was deceptive, for many of the fields, which at a distance seemed to have a vigorous crop, turned out on close inspection to be covered only with a few straggling sprouts. There is only one tank of any importance here, and the number of wells is considerable; but the ryots, in their anxiety to crop a large area, have in many cases overtaxed the capabilities of their wells, and the young shoots consequently do not thrive as they would if smaller areas were attempted; nevertheless there will be some harvest in these parts. These seeming signs of prosperity were delusive, for on visiting a few of the villages to discover the state of the poorer classes, I found that although the distress might not be so widely spread, there was a greater number of individual cases of advanced misery than I have noticed elsewhere. The Yanadis are fairly numerous and in several cases very badly off.

6. On Sunday the 19th I inspected Répalle, and on Monday I visited Venkatapuram, Rangarazugunta, Vanellur, Gollapalem and Motapalem in order to find if the condition of the poorer classes was such as to make it necessary to open a kitchen. After careful inspection I determined to open a kitchen at Répalle, the most central village of the tract.

7. On Tuesday, 21st, I visited Ambikapuram and Tondampattu. Here I found the coolies in very fair condition. They have been attending the Kadur and Pandur tank repair works and have had a market for their labour for a long time. I found only one old and helpless man deserving of relief. In the evening I inspected the village of Répalle. Twenty-eight persons, Yanadis, Madigas and Malas, were selected for relief, of whom 9 were old and helpless persons, and the rest children, the majority of them deserted by their fathers. That evening, at about 5 o'clock, a heavy shower fell—the amount I estimated to be well over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

8. On Wednesday, 22nd, I inspected Chamurti, Narappakandigai, Pravalavarne-swarapuram, Obularazukandigai, Pata-motapalem and Motapalem, distributing in all 33 tickets, of which 12 were given in Obularazukandigai and 16 in Motapalem.

9. On the morning of Thursday, 23rd, I visited Venkatapuram and distributed 9 tickets. During the day preparations were made for opening the kitchen in the evening. The kitchen was opened and 67 persons out of 70 on the register attended. Five more persons from surrounding villages, who had not been present at the time of my visits, were admitted to relief.

10. On Friday the 24th I again visited Rangarazugunta, Venkatapuram and Gollapalem. In the latter village only one, a cripple, was qualified for relief, but he refused to accept it. Vanellur is inhabited by caste people only, who were not willing to attend the kitchen. In Rangarazugunta 6 tickets were issued, two being given to Baliyas, a caste whose members have hitherto avoided the kitchens. I was present at both distributions of food in the kitchen. In the evening I admitted to relief 6 orphans from Pravalavarne-swarapuram and Venkatapuram whom I had not seen previously.

11. On Saturday, 25th, I marched across a strip of the Chingleput district to Kallived. On my way I visited the Pandur relief work: 300 coolies or more were at work, many of them having come 5 to 8 miles from the North Arcot district. In the evening I inspected the Kallived kitchen.

12. On the morning of Sunday, 26th, I again visited the kitchen, and from a number of people collected from the villages of Kallived, Kammapalem, Talarived, Kurinjalam, Chavali, &c., I selected several for relief and was present at the morning distribution of food. In the evening I inspected the village of Rallapalle, and was present at the distribution of food.

13. On Monday morning, 27th, I marched to Chalamattur, seeing the kitchen at Choda agharam on my way. In the evening I was again present at the kitchen, saw the distribution of meals, and admitted applicants from Choda agharam, Chalamattur and other surrounding villages.

14. On Tuesday, 28th, I visited Battalavallam, Chedalpapakam and Rachapalem and distributed tickets, and was present at both distributions of food.

15. The coolies of the tracts around Répalle, Kallivedu, and Chalamattur (with the exception of those of Karapakam and Pullivallam) are readily going 6 to 11 miles for work. The general request is for more frequent payments. Payments are seldom made at shorter intervals than five or six days at the least. The average wage paid is only a subsistence allowance, and, without daily payment, the coolies are put to great difficulties, for it is rare for them to be able to obtain supplies on credit. I have not yet visited the works at Manellur and Arur; in other places the interval between payments is too long. The Public Works Department officers must either be driven to make more frequent payments, or, if it is considered that they are unable to do so, additional officers must be appointed to help them.

17. The Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpák was with me on 23rd, 24th and 25th, and gave me great help in opening the kitchen at Répalle.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 2nd August 1891, No. 5115 Gl.-Eng.

Forwarded. If Mr. Watson will travel more round his works and check his Overseers, payments will be more regular. They ought not to be made less than every three days, and, with proper supervision, this would be feasible.

Read—also the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arambakam, 30th July 1891, No. 487:—

FORTNIGHTLY NARRATIVE.

(For the fortnight 15th July to 28th.)

Note.—The Kálahasti report has not yet been received.

STATE OF COUNTRY.—Crops.—Harvested.—Nil.

Standing crops.—Indigo, ragi, cumbu and cholam in infinitesimal quantities under wells. These crops were sown after the showers at the commencement of the month. The supply of water in wells is poor, and the areas attempted to be cultivated are usually too large for the capacities of the wells; the crops consequently are not flourishing.

Fodder.—Scarce.

Water-supply.—Deficient throughout the two divisions.

Agricultural operations.—Nil, except in parts of the Loki and Tirupurantakapuram-kota valleys and around Vengalatur.

Cattle.—Are suffering badly from want of fodder and water. Deaths are frequent. Health generally good, but a few cases of anthrax are reported from the neighbourhood of Nirpakota.

General remarks on above subjects.—Prospects gloomy. There can be no alleviation to the general suffering till the north-east monsoon.

Rainfall at surrounding stations.

		Maderpák.	Kálahasti.	Sathiavedu.	Tiruvallár.
		INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.
15th		0 1 5	0 3 6		
16th		..	..	1 5 0	0 7 0
19th		..	0 1 0	..	..
20th		..	0 7 0	..	..
21st		..	0 2 0	..	..
22nd		..	..	0 2 0	..
24th		0 2 0	..	..	..
25th		..	..	0 1 5	..

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.—*On works.*—Fair.

In villages.—Bad.

Mortality.—None reported.

Sickness.—Small-pox in a very few villages. Cholera, probably imported, is reported from the neighbourhood of Kálahasti.

RELIEF MEASURES.—*Relief-works*—*In what taluks opened.*—Local Fund works at Chinnapet (1), Pennallurpet (2), Musalinayadikandigai (1), Gunipalem (1), Battalavallam (1), Kálahasti (1).

The works are on contract and the numbers are not known.

Under Public Works Department.—No report received. Works at Manellur, Mambakam, Kannavaram, Ramabatlapalle.

Kitchens.—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Vellallukotai	15	28	94
Panapak	4	18	68
Alagripet	10	35	61
Arai	2	12	19
Royapedu	3	18	33
Ragigunta	4	11	28
Anjur	1	13	23
Buchinayadikandigai	1	10	54
Kallivedu	7	35	56
Chalamattur	..	8	16
Arambakam	2	2	25
Palambedu	1	5	16
Maderpák	3	8	24
Janakipuram	12	29	41

Number of cases of death from want of food with brief note of circumstances, if possible.—Nil.

Remarks.—Labourers have given up all hope of work in the fields, and are glad to go 10 miles to work in Cachinad and around Kallivedu.

In the Tirupurantakapuram valley people at a distance of more than 3 miles from Kannavaram do not frequent the works.

GRAIN-SUPPLY.—*Private trade active or not; whether in rice or dry staple food-grain.*—Dull in Maderpák.

State the imports by Rail or Sea of rice or other staple food-grain.—Nil in Maderpák.

Known or estimated stock in taluks.—Nil in Maderpák.

Prices at Maderpák.

Rice.	Cholum.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
11	..	19	..

Measures of 75 tolas per rupee.

Places visited by the Head Assistant Collector during the fortnight.—Janakipuram, Allapulagunta, Kannavaram, Kottaikadu, Vembakamkandigai, Répalle, Venkatapuram, Rangarazugunta, Vanellur, Gollapalem, Motapalem, Ambikapuram, Tondampattu, Chamurti, Narappakandigai, Pravalavarneswarapuram, Obularazukandigai, Pata-motapalem, Kallived, Rallapalle, Chalamattur, Choda agra-haram, Timmanayadipet, Battalavallam, Chedulpakam and Rachapalem. The majority of these villages have been visited twice or oftener.

By the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpák.—Middakandigai, Janakipuram, Razal-kandigai, Janakipuram, Koppedu, Arai, Kodiembedu, Kottaikadu, Vembakam, Vembakamkandigai, Oddakandigai, Ambikapuram, Repallai, Venkatapuram, Kallivedu, Thondambul, Pondur and Kálahasti.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 2nd August 1891, No. 5685 Gl.-Eng.

Forwarded. That the rainfall, such as it was, was purely local, may be seen that on the day when 1 inch 5 oz. were registered at Sathiavedu, not a drop fell at Maderpák. I regret to say that the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpák has been knocked up. This officer has been indefatigable and is only too anxious to be up and doing again.

Resolution—dated 5th August 1891, No. 490.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It is unnecessary to submit two reports covering the same period. The general results of the inspections might be given at the end of the fortnightly narrative.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief are largely increasing and careful inquiries should be made as to whether the parents of some of the very numerous children who are now being fed and who have been brought into good condition are not now able to support them. A large number are fed in kitchens attached to relief works. These kitchens should all be taken over and supervised by Mr. Buckley, and the numbers fed at these kitchens reported in his weekly returns.

4. The complaints regarding the infrequency of payments will be communicated to Mr. Watson, and he will be requested to state what steps he can suggest to improve matters. It might be possible to ensure more frequent inspection and supervision if the labourers were concentrated on a few large works.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of North Arcot.

Copy to L. E. Buckley, Esq.
" to C. J. K. Watson, Esq.
" to the Government of India,
Revenue and Agricultural Department.

ORDER—dated 13th August 1891, No. 745, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's instructions are approved.

2. More frequent payments must be insisted upon and the Board will report as soon as possible what steps are necessary to secure this.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

75 Copies.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th August 1891, No. 745.

AUGUST.

Season, North Arcot.

Approving the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue that careful inquiries should be made as to the inability of the parents to support the very numerous children now being gratuitously fed and brought up into good condition and that the kitchens attached to relief works be taken over and supervised and the numbers fed reported by Mr. Buckley, and calling on the Board of Revenue to report what steps are necessary to secure more frequent payments to the labourers.

No. 2257 Wd/18th August 1891
Communicated to the
Superintending Engineer
IV Circle who will forward
to the Chief Engineer a
copy of such remarks as
Mr. Watson may submit
in regard to more frequent
payments.

/Sd/ J. P. W.

Suptg. Engineer IV Circle

13TH AUGUST 1891, No. 745, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th August 1891, No. 490:—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arambakam, 31st July 1891, No. 488:—

I have the honour to report on the relief work done during the past fortnight ending July 28th.

2. On Wednesday, 15th, I was not in the division. At midday on Thursday, 16th, I reached Janakipuram in the Tirupurantakapuram valley, about 30 miles from Tiruvallūr. In the evening the Janakipuram Razulkandigai kitchen was inspected; several persons from Velur, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, appeared to apply for admission, of whom 7 were admitted, 4 being children in the preliminary stages of emaciation. A boy from Razulkandigai, who was suffering from leprosy, was also admitted.

3. On Friday, 17th, I went to Kannavaram to inspect the tank restoration work in progress there. About 300 coolies were at work. I found that the Overseer had neglected to open the kitchen for the feeding of the children of labourers at midday as prescribed in the Famine Code. The omission was pointed out and the kitchen has since been opened. On my return I visited Allapulagunta. None was found eligible for relief. The coolies professed not to have heard that work was going on at Kannavaram, about 2 miles distant. In the evening 6 persons were admitted to relief from Vajjavarikandigai, and I was present at the distribution of food at the kitchen. A child from Janakipuram and a sick man from Kadivedu, who came for admission to the kitchen, were admitted.

4. On Saturday, 18th, I visited Kottaikadu and Vembakamkandigai, mainly with the intention of inducing the coolies, who are clamorous for work, to go to Kannavaram. Mr. Phillips had previously inspected the village for the purpose of admitting deserving persons to relief. Kannavaram, by a short cut over the low rising ground on the eastern side of the Tirupurantakapuram valley, is at a distance of under 5 miles from Kottaikadu, but the coolies refused to go to work there, asking for work close at hand. This I told them there was no chance of their getting until the repairs of all the tanks around Kannavaram are completed. In the evening I again visited the kitchen, and admitted 12 more persons to relief from Janakipuram, Kadivedu, Birakuppam and Tirupurantakapuramkota. Several women, chiefly those with children at the breast, have been deserted by their husbands, and a considerable number of children have been deserted by their parents since my last visit. A few small patches in this tract are under well cultivation, ragi and cumbu having sprouted.

5. Leaving Janakipuram on the morning of Sunday, 19th, I marched to Répalle, about 10 miles north. This part had not been visited by me for some time as it was reported to me to be fairly off. It was a pleasant change to see here and there no inconsiderable extents of green; but the appearance was deceptive, for many of the fields, which at a distance seemed to have a vigorous crop, turned out on close inspection to be covered only with a few straggling sprouts. There is only one tank of any importance here, and the number of wells is considerable; but the ryots, in their anxiety to crop a large area, have in many cases overtaxed the capabilities of their wells, and the young shoots consequently do not thrive as they would if smaller areas were attempted; nevertheless there will be some harvest in these parts. These seeming signs of prosperity were delusive, for on visiting a few of the villages to discover the state of the poorer classes, I found that although the distress might not be so widely spread, there was a greater number of individual cases of advanced misery than I have noticed elsewhere. The Yanadis are fairly numerous and in several cases very badly off.

6. On Sunday the 19th I inspected Répalle, and on Monday I visited Venkatapuram, Rangarazugunta, Vanellur, Gollapalem and Motapalem in order to find if the condition of the poorer classes was such as to make it necessary to open a kitchen. After careful inspection I determined to open a kitchen at Répalle, the most central village of the tract.

7. On Tuesday, 21st, I visited Ambikapuram and Tondampattu. Here I found the coolies in very fair condition. They have been attending the Kadur and Pandur tank repair works and have had a market for their labour for a long time. I found only one old and helpless man deserving of relief. In the evening I inspected the village of Répalle. Twenty-eight persons, Yanadis, Madigas and Malas, were selected for relief, of whom 9 were old and helpless persons, and the rest children, the majority of them deserted by their fathers. That evening, at about 5 o'clock, a heavy shower fell—the amount I estimated to be well over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

8. On Wednesday, 22nd, I inspected Chamurti, Narappakandigai, Pravalavarneswarapuram, Obularazukandigai, Pata-motapalem and Motapalem, distributing in all 33 tickets, of which 12 were given in Obularazukandigai and 16 in Motapalem.

9. On the morning of Thursday, 23rd, I visited Venkatapuram and distributed 9 tickets. During the day preparations were made for opening the kitchen in the evening. The kitchen was opened and 67 persons out of 70 on the register attended. Five more persons from surrounding villages, who had not been present at the time of my visits, were admitted to relief.

10. On Friday the 24th I again visited Rangarazugunta, Venkatapuram and Gollapalem. In the latter village only one, a cripple, was qualified for relief, but he refused to accept it. Vanellur is inhabited by caste people only, who were not willing to attend the kitchen. In Rangarazugunta 6 tickets were issued, two being given to Baliyas, a caste whose members have hitherto avoided the kitchens. I was present at both distributions of food in the kitchen. In the evening I admitted to relief 6 orphans from Pravalavarneswarapuram and Venkatapuram whom I had not seen previously.

11. On Saturday, 25th, I marched across a strip of the Chingleput district to Kallived. On my way I visited the Pandur relief work: 300 coolies or more were at work, many of them having come 5 to 8 miles from the North Arcot district. In the evening I inspected the Kallived kitchen.

12. On the morning of Sunday, 26th, I again visited the kitchen, and from a number of people collected from the villages of Kallived, Kammapalem, Talarived, Kurinjalam, Chavali, &c., I selected several for relief and was present at the morning distribution of food. In the evening I inspected the village of Rallapalle, and was present at the distribution of food.

13. On Monday morning, 27th, I marched to Chalamattur, seeing the kitchen at Choda agrapharam on my way. In the evening I was again present at the kitchen, saw the distribution of meals, and admitted applicants from Choda agrapharam, Chalamattur and other surrounding villages.

14. On Tuesday, 28th, I visited Battalavallam, Chedalpakam and Rachapalem and distributed tickets, and was present at both distributions of food.

15. The coolies of the tracts around Répalle, Kallivedu, and Chalamattur (with the exception of those of Karapakam and Pullivallam) are readily going 6 to 11 miles for work. The general request is for more frequent payments. Payments are seldom made at shorter intervals than five or six days at the least. The average wage paid is only a subsistence allowance, and, without daily payment, the coolies are put to great difficulties, for it is rare for them to be able to obtain supplies on credit. I have not yet visited the works at Manellur and Arur; in other places the interval between payments is too long. The Public Works Department officers must either be driven to make more frequent payments, or, if it is considered that they are unable to do so, additional officers must be appointed to help them.

17. The Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpák was with me on 23rd, 24th and 25th, and gave me great help in opening the kitchen at Répalle.

Endorsement by W. J. H. LE FANU, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated 2nd August 1891, No. 5115 Gl.-Eng.

Forwarded. If Mr. Watson will travel more round his works and check his Overseers, payments will be more regular. They ought not to be made less than every three days, and, with proper supervision, this would be feasible.

Read—also the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arambakam, 30th July 1891, No. 487:—

FORTNIGHTLY NARRATIVE.

(For the fortnight 15th July to 28th.)

Note.—The Kálahasti report has not yet been received.

STATE OF COUNTRY.—Crops.—Harvested.—Nil.

Standing crops.—Indigo, ragi, cumbu and cholum in infinitesimal quantities under wells. These crops were sown after the showers at the commencement of the month. The supply of water in wells is poor, and the areas attempted to be cultivated are usually too large for the capacities of the wells; the crops consequently are not flourishing.

Fodder.—Scarce.

Water-supply.—Deficient throughout the two divisions.

Agricultural operations.—Nil, except in parts of the Loki and Tirupurantakapuram-kota valleys and around Vengalatur.

Cattle.—Are suffering badly from want of fodder and water. Deaths are frequent. Health generally good, but a few cases of anthrax are reported from the neighbourhood of Nirpakota.

General remarks on above subjects.—Prospects gloomy. There can be no alleviation to the general suffering till the north-east monsoon.

Rainfall at surrounding stations.

	Maderpák.	Kálahasti.	Sathiavedu.	Tiravallúr.
	INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.	INS. OZ. CTS.
15th	0 1 5	0 3 6		
16th			1 5 0	0 7 0
19th		0 1 0		
20th		0 7 0		
21st		0 2 0		
22nd			0 2 0	
24th	0 2 0			
25th			0 1 5	

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.—*On works.*—Fair.

In villages.—Bad.

Mortality.—None reported.

Sickness.—Small-pox in a very few villages. Cholera, probably imported, is reported from the neighbourhood of Kálahasti.

RELIEF MEASURES.—*Relief-works.*—*In what taluks opened.*—Local Fund works at Chinnapet (1), Pennallurpet (2), Musalinayadikandigai (1), Gunipalem (1), Battalavallam (1), Kálahasti (1).

The works are on contract and the numbers are not known.

Under Public Works Department.—No report received. Works at Manellur, Mambakam, Kannavaram, Ramabatlapalle.

Kitchens.—

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Vellallukotai	15	28	94
Panapak	4	18	68
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Chalamattur	..	8	16
Arambakam	2	2	25
Palambedu	1	5	16
Maderpák	3	8	24
Janakipuram	12	29	41

Number of cases of death from want of food with brief note of circumstances, if possible.—Nil.

Remarks.—Labourers have given up all hope of work in the fields, and are glad to go 10 miles to work in Cachinad and around Kallivedu.

In the Tirupurantakapuram valley people at a distance of more than 3 miles from Kannavaram do not frequent the works.

GRAIN-SUPPLY.—*Private trade active or not; whether in rice or dry staple food-grain.*—Dull in Maderpák.

State the imports by Rail or Sea of rice or other staple food-grain.—Nil in Maderpák.

Known or estimated stock in taluks.—Nil in Maderpák.

Prices at Maderpák.

Rice.	Cholum.	Ragi.	Cumbu.
11	..	19	..

Measures of 75 tolas per rupee.

Places visited by the Head Assistant Collector during the fortnight.—Janakipuram, Allapulagunta, Kannavaram, Kottaikadu, Vembakamkandigai, Répalle, Venkatapuram, Rangarazugunta, Vanellur, Gollapalem, Motapalem, Ambikapuram, Tondampattu, Chamurti, Narappakandigai, Pravalavarneswarapuram, Obularazukandigai, Pata-motapalem, Kallived, Rallapalle, Chalamattur, Choda agharam, Timmanayadipet, Battalavallam, Chedulpakam and Rachapalem. The majority of these villages have been visited twice or oftener.

By the Deputy Tahsildar of Maderpák.—Middakandigai, Janakipuram, Razal-kandigai, Janakipuram, Koppedu, Arai, Kodiembedu, Kottaikadu, Vembakam, Vembakamkandigai, Oddakandigai, Ambikapuram, Repallai, Venkatapuram, Kallivedu, Thondambul, Pondur and Kálahasti.

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Resolution—dated 5th August 1891, No. 490.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. It is unnecessary to submit two reports covering the same period. The general results of the inspections might be given at the end of the fortnightly narrative.

3. The numbers on gratuitous relief are largely increasing and careful inquiries should be made as to whether the parents of some of the very numerous children who are now being fed and who have been brought into good condition are not now able to support them. A large number are fed in kitchens attached to relief works. These kitchens should all be taken over and supervised by Mr. Buckley, and the numbers fed at these kitchens reported in his weekly returns.

4. The complaints regarding the infrequency of payments will be communicated to Mr. Watson, and he will be requested to state what steps he can suggest to improve matters. It might be possible to ensure more frequent inspection and supervision if the labourers were concentrated on a few large works.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ Collector of North Arcot.

Copy to L. E. Buckley, Esq.

„ to C. J. K. Watson, Esq.

„ to the Government of India,
Revenue and Agricultural Department.

ORDER—dated 13th August 1891, No. 745, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's instructions are approved.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.
Copy to the Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Henricus.

75 Copies.

Gobt. of {1891} Madras.
REVENUE.

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Recd. Encl.

G.O., 13th August 1891, No. 745.

AUGUST.

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No. 2257 Wd/18th August 1891

Communicated to the
Suptg. Engineer IV Circle
who will forward to the
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such remarks as Mr. Watson
may submit in regard to
more frequent payments.

Sd/ J. P. W.

To The Suptg. Engr. IV Circle

13TH AUGUST 1891, No. 744, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th August 1891, No. 488 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from J. H. A. TREMENHEERE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated Saidápet, 28th July 1891, Ref. on No. 2828-Eng. :—

I have the honour to submit to the Board my report on the state of the district for the fortnight ending Saturday 25th July.

2. Rainfall.—The registered figures are given in the margin. In the Conjeeveram taluk about half an inch fell at Saidápet and Sriperumbudur, but did not extend to the north-east where the drought is fiercest. Satyavedu had its usual three or four showers, coming through a gap in the hills, but soon spending their substance, and there were very local showers in Saidápet and Madurántakam. The feature of the record is the succession of rainy days in Ponnéri, even though the aggregate fall did not exceed '65. Late in the year though it is, some ryots there have been bold enough to sow upland soils.

3. I have generally had to complain that the out-villages received much less rain than the recording stations, especially in Tiruvallúr. This run upon black, so to say, is now broken. The registerings are not quite favorable enough in two taluks. In Ponnéri an inch fell at Vallur in the south, and half an inch to the north and east of Ponnéri. In Tiruvallúr there was at last a fair fall in parts at least of the affected tracts, varying from an inch south-east of Periapalayam to half an inch at that place, a third at Uttukotei, and three-quarters at Arudur in the northern (Kadur) tract.

4. The result of the rain is a slight stay of distress in parts of Ponnéri and Tiruvallúr; agricultural labour is being re-employed, ragi is transplanted under less unfavorable conditions, and grazing will revive. A few days ago, and you should have journeyed from Dan to Beersheba and seen not a blade of grass. It is so now in Chingleput, Madurántakam and east Conjeeveram.

5. Cultivation.—Only 37,000 acres have been cultivated since the beginning of April, and nearly all of this under wells, the only important exception being under the river-fed channels. This compares with the five preceding years as 37 with 57; 61; 83; 46; and 80; average 65. But for our wells we should be now counting the thousands in units.

6. *Prices*.—Prices are still rising, the average for "second sort" rice being 10.107 seers a rupee against 10.33 in last week, and for ragi 17.4 against 17.8. Rice is above scarcity rate (10) at the recording stations of Satyavedu (9.06), Poonamallee (9.44) and Sriperumbudur (9.81); but in remote villages prices are much higher, as at Tirupórá (8.75). This is nearing the famine prices of July 1877 and 1878 (6.83 and 7.07). In ragi however (17.457) we are still far away from the figures of those years (8.04 and 9.88).

7. *Cattle*.—There is not much specific disease among the cattle, but they are dying; and unless pasture and water is soon replenished, will die like flies. Last year's mortality up to June averaged 1,400 a month; this year's averages 2,230, being brought so high by the figures of May and June (2,485 and 3,699). More than twice as many cattle died in June as in June last year.

8. *Public health*.—I have frequently remarked upon the extraordinary healthiness of the season. The average (recorded) mortality *per mensem* up to the end of June was 1,823 last year and is 1,704 now. Until June we had less deaths every month than in last year; now the tide has turned, and the June deaths have risen from 1,560 to 1,860. Our immunity from epidemics has ceased. From cholera in the last 23 days we have 3 deaths in Saidápet, 5 in Tiruvallúr, 6 in Chingleput, 28 in Madurantakam, and 45 in Conjeeveram (including 36 in municipality). I anticipate a most severe outbreak of cholera soon and think the district medical staff should be strongly reinforced.

9. *Inspection*.—Mr. Pinto as usual in Tiruvallúr and Mr. Shanmuga Sundram Pillai in Ponnéri were active in inspection; the Deputy Collector of Saidápet had to be deputed to inspect north and east Conjeeveram, where he did a great deal of good work; and Mr. Mullaly was able with the help of sticks to visit the kitchens in his division. He considers that some help must be given to the Sub-Collector, and indeed this is only a matter of time. The form it should take, however, must be considered with his successor, who to the great detriment of public interests in this district has not yet apparently been ordered to join. I inspected south Saidápet and east Conjeeveram, and the kitchens at Porur, Gollanchavidi, Vandalur and Karunguli.

10. I extract some of the district officers' remarks:—

Sub-Division.

Sub-Collector.—"General prospects have become more gloomy."

Chingleput Tahsildar.—"The rain has held off, and the situation is growing worse."

Conjeeveram Tahsildar.—"Distress which was confined to some of the villages of Pillai Chattram Firka in the centre of the taluk, and some of the villages of Manimangalam Firka in the north-east, has gradually extended itself, and it may now be said that it is felt throughout Sriperumbudur Deputy Tahsildar's division, except in some villages under the irrigation of the big tanks, &c."

Main Division.

Saidápet.—(South and worst portions inspected by me; it is holding its own).

Tiruvallúr.—*Deputy Collector Mr. Pinto*.—"The general prospects as compared with the previous month are decidedly more unfavorable..... The coolies' work has become harder, and their wage less sufficient to maintain the family..... the want of water-supply for men and cattle is day by day felt more keenly." (On this point, see especially Mr. Ramachendrayar's notes from Conjeeveram).

Ponnéri.—*Deputy Collector Mr. Shanmuga Sundram Pillai*.—"The distress is increasing."

The Tahsildar.—"In some cases amongst Pariahs, wives have been deserted by husbands and children by the parents..... One chuckler woman, who had been

deserted by her husband, brought her four children and leaving them near the kitchen ran away and has not returned yet..... The health of caste people is steadily being undermined by semi-starvation in their houses..... Something will have to be done in the near future to relieve this sort of people."

11. These extracts are enough to show that the district has entered a darker phase of suffering.

12. *Numbers on works*.—The number of persons on works of all kinds, which last fortnight had risen from 17,812 to 19,802, has now risen to 23,323, but this for the first time includes the figures for Conjeeveram (1,781). The figures are as follows:—

					Last fortnight.	This fortnight.	
Ponnéri	...	...	...	...	4,892	5,849	Due to the closing of
Tiruvallúr	...	...	...	...	4,814	4,447	salt factories and start-
Saidápet	...	...	...	...	1,833	2,456	ing of Pulicat canal
Madurantakam	...	...	...	...	4,183	4,571	diversion—see paragraph
Chingleput	...	...	...	...	4,080	4,219	below.
Conjeeveram	...	...	...	...	...	1,781	

13. *Departmental works*—(a) *Canal*.—The diversion of the Buckingham canal near Pulicat has been started, and employs 1,105 persons.

14. (b) *Irrigational*.—The return by taluks must be scrutinized:—

						Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Ponnéri	...	...	...	...	...	1,535	956
Tiruvallúr	...	...	...	...	...	1,936	1,196
Madurantakam	...	...	...	...	...	1,023	1,144
Chingleput	...	...	...	...	...	385	439

The fall in Ponnéri is due to the rain, to irregular payments admitted by the overseer, and to the fact that the work is at present in the northern corner and subject to competition from Irugam island in the Pulicat lake. The fall of 740 in Tiruvallúr is due to two causes: one a mistake of mine last time in taking Vadamadurai and Yenambakkam as separate works, whereas the latter is the name given to the Vadamadurai channel feeding the tank; this accounts for 540 persons and leaves a fall of 200 to be accounted for. The second may be explained by the report of Mr. Pinto, that the workmen had not been paid fully for over two weeks. I refer the Commissioner to Mr. Pinto's report for details, and beg that the matter may be thoroughly investigated. If the complaint is true, it is time these scandals should cease. The actual fall on Vadamadurai is almost 300, and at one time the people struck work.

15. The departmental work for Saidápet has not yet been started, though I asked for it a fortnight ago, having then given ample warning. These delays dishearten me. I have also asked for a work in north Conjeeveram.

16. It is for Government in the Public Works Department to determine whether one Executive Engineer can efficiently manage the whole district; estimating, starting, supervising, paying and frequently inspecting.

17. In north Tiruvallúr, Pandur is going on; after that *there is only Moparapalli*. It is time then I submit to sanction the estimate for the road mentioned in paragraph 8, Board's Proceedings, dated 20th July, No. 440.

18. *Public Works Department contract works*.—The number of persons on contract works has risen from 478 to 2,025, there being an increase of nearly 1,000 in Tiruvallúr and of 260 in Conjeeveram.

19. The number on ordinary repairs to the Buckingham canal remains at 2,200.

20. *Minor Irrigation*.—Minor irrigation works show little change (fall from 1,500 to 1,400), a falling off in Tiruvallúr and Chingleput being counterbalanced by Conjeeveram newly included.

21. *Local Fund.*—Local Funds now employ 1,500 persons against 900, the increase being mostly on sanitary works and principally in Saidápet.

22. *Land Improvement Loans.*—Six hundred and fifty-six wells have been completed, and 1,607 are reported to be under construction, which may employ 11,249 persons. I do not disguise the fact that we do not know accurately how soon a well is finished, and these figures must be accepted with reserve. The advances made during the week were:—

	RS.
Ponnéri	800
Tiruvallúr	1,325
Saidápet	1,800
Chingleput	3,415
Madurántakam	3,061
Conjeeveram	275
Total	10,676

23. *Kitchens.*—I am opening two new kitchens—one at Tirupalavanam, north-east of Ponnéri, and one at Pakkam, a little north of Tinnanúr Railway station.

24. Besides these, there are 10 kitchens, of which 4 are old—

	Last fortnight.	This fortnight.
Puduvayil (Ponnéri)	38	38
Periapalayam (Tiruvallúr)	99	126
Porur (Saidápet)	54	80
Sembakkam (Chingleput)	125	159
Total	316	403

Six are new—

Gummidipundi (Ponnéri)	81
Ambur (North Tiruvallúr)	63
Gollanchavadi (Saidápet)	37
Vandalur (N.W. Chingleput)	96
Karunguli (Madurántakam)	162
Acharavakkam (Madurántakam)	57
	496
	899

25. I have not much fear that the kitchens in the Main Division have admitted too profusely; the difficulty is the other way, the people holding back. In the Sub-Division, however, I found that Pariahs were coming without sufficient reason, and in Karunguli I had to reject 88 out of 225 inmates, a duty in which I had the assistance of the District Medical officer. In the current fortnight, Mr. Mullaly has been admitting a very large number of persons, chiefly children, and I confess I am not without apprehension that compassion has outrun discretion. I cannot visit the southern kitchens again at present, but I shall endeavour in writing as already attempted verbally to impress upon him that we are to act upon no presumptions, but solely on the physical test.

26. The application in paragraph 25 of my last report for Rs. 5,000 to be formally sanctioned for gratuitous relief has perhaps been overlooked.

27. Sir Savalai Ramasami Mudaliar has generously sent some 600 cloths to clothe the men, women and children in our kitchens; but it is still better news that he is repairing the irrigation and the drinking water tanks in his zemindari villages. Would that other zemindars and shrotriendars would follow his example!

Resolution—dated 5th August 1891, No. 488.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The rainfall of the district up to the week ending 1st August has been 3.56 inches as compared with 11.39 inches, the average of the same period for the past three years. The rain in the past week also compares very unfavorably with the rainfall in the corresponding period of the past three years which amounted to 2.89 inches. Cultivation, as the Collector shows, is very backward, only 37,000 acres having been sown from the beginning of April as compared with 65,000, the average of the past five years. The average cultivation up to the end of July is, however, but a small proportion of the total cultivation of the year which is 658,000 acres, and it may be trusted therefore that though the south-west monsoon has been a failure up to date, there is yet time during the year to retrieve the losses incurred up to date. Meantime, however, the numbers seeking employment at the hands of Government are increasing, while the numbers unable to work and demanding gratuitous relief are increasing in a still greater ratio. The numbers on Departmental major irrigation works and on minor irrigation works at the end of the previous fortnight were 8,579 and on the 25th, the end of the fortnight under review, they amounted to 8,440. The numbers gratuitously relieved in kitchens at the end of the previous fortnight were 318. On the 25th they had mounted up to 945 and on the 1st instant they were 1,534. The great increase in numbers on gratuitous relief occurred in the Sub-Division where Mr. Mullaly has been admitting a very large number of persons, chiefly children. The Collector states that he is not without apprehension that compassion has outrun discretion, and he has issued strict orders that in admitting to gratuitous relief officers shall act upon no presumptions, but solely upon the physical test. The Collector's order was issued in connection with an expression of opinion by Mr. Mullaly "that it may safely be presumed that the condition of the Pariahs is such that the distribution of kitchen food to the young whether healthy or emaciated and to the infirm is necessary." The Commissioner agrees with the Collector in considering that in the public interests no such presumption should be made. The fact that a child is in good condition must be taken as evidence that his parents are in a condition to support him as they have done hitherto until the contrary is proved.

3. Delay in payment on the major irrigation works under the control of the Public Works Department is still complained of, but the matter is now receiving the earnest attention of that department.

4. Prices continue to rise, that of rice is dearer than the scarcity rate in three reporting stations. Ragi is still very much cheaper than the scarcity rate, but its price is steadily rising. The average for the district on the 1st instant was 17.55 as compared with the scarcity rate of 13.2, but at Satyavedu, Ponnéri and Madurántakam they were much dearer than the district average, being 16.44, 17.13 and 17.10, respectively.

5. The public health as judged by the recorded death-rate was unusually good up to the beginning of June. In that month, however, the recorded deaths exceeded the average of the same month by 300, being 1,860 as compared with the average of 1,560. Cholera has appeared in five taluks, but the mortality up to date is not large.

6. Cattle must suffer largely if the rains hold off much longer.

7. Government is requested to accord sanction to the Collector's application for Rs. 5,000 for expenditure on gratuitous relief.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) P. RAJARATNA MUDALIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of the Chingleput District.

" " Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

ORDER—dated 13th August 1891, No. 744, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded.

Collector in paragraph 8 of his letter. The question raised in paragraph 16 will be considered in the Public Works Department.

* Vide G.O., No. 743, dated 13th August 1891.

2. The attention of the Public Department is invited to the remarks of the
3. The Financial Department has already been requested * to sanction a sum of Rs. 5,000 for expenditure on gratuitous relief.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.

„ the Financial Department.

„ the Public Department.

„ the Public Works Department.

Copy to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Exd. C. A. Munisawmy.

100 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 5th August 1891, No. 490 :—

MR. CLOGSTOUN.

Read—the following letter from L. E. BUCKLEY, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Arambakam, 31st July 1891, No. 488 :—

I have the honour to report on the relief work done during the past fortnight ending July 28th.

2. On Wednesday, 15th, I was not in the division. At midday on Thursday, 16th, I reached Janakipuram in the Tirupurantakapuram valley, about 30 miles from Tiruvallūr. In the evening the Janakipuram Razulkandigai kitchen was inspected; several persons from Velur, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, appeared to apply for admission, of whom 7 were admitted, 4 being children in the preliminary stages of emaciation. A boy from Razulkandigai, who was suffering from leprosy, was also admitted.

3. On Friday, 17th, I went to Kannavaram to inspect the tank restoration work in progress there. About 300 coolies were at work. I found that the Overseer had neglected to open the kitchen for the feeding of the children of labourers at midday as prescribed in the Famine Code. The omission was pointed out and the kitchen has since been opened. On my return I visited Allapulagunta. None was found eligible for relief. The coolies professed not to have heard that work was going on at Kannavaram, about 2 miles distant. In the evening 6 persons were admitted to relief from Vajjavarikandigai, and I was present at the distribution of food at the kitchen. A child from Janakipuram and a sick man from Kadivedu, who came for admission to the kitchen, were admitted.

4. On Saturday, 18th, I visited Kottaikadu and Vembakamkandigai, mainly with the intention of inducing the coolies, who are clamorous for work, to go to Kannavaram. Mr. Phillips had previously inspected the village for the purpose of admitting deserving persons to relief. Kannavaram, by a short cut over the low rising ground on the eastern side of the Tirupurantakapuram valley, is at a distance of under 5 miles from Kottaikadu, but the coolies refused to go to work there, asking for work close at hand. This I told them there was no chance of their getting until the repairs of all the tanks around Kannavaram are completed. In the evening I again visited the kitchen, and admitted 12 more persons to relief from Janakipuram, Kadivedu, Birakuppam and Tirupurantakapuramkota. Several women, chiefly those with children at the breast, have been deserted by their husbands, and a considerable number of children have been deserted by their parents since my last visit. A few small patches in this tract are under well cultivation, ragi and cumbu having sprouted.